



# NEWS RELEASE

United States Department of Agriculture • Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service • Legislative and Public Affairs  
4700 River Road, Riverdale, MD 20737-1232 • Voice (301) 734-7799 • Web: <http://www.aphis.usda.gov>

---

Melissa O'Dell (301) 734-5222

Andrea McNally (301) 734-0602

## **USDA PROPOSES TO ALLOW WOODEN HANDICRAFTS FROM CHINA**

WASHINGTON, April 8, 2009--The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) is proposing to allow the importation of wooden handicrafts from China under certain conditions.

In 2005, APHIS suspended the importation of certain Chinese wooden handicrafts pending a more thorough evaluation of the pest risks associated with their importation into the United States. Based on conclusions from a recent pest risk analysis and risk management document, APHIS determined that the risks associated with those articles can be safely mitigated provided certain conditions are met.

Under the proposed rule, Chinese-origin wooden handicrafts would need to be heat treated to at least 71.1 °C (160 °F) for at least 75 minutes or heat treated with moisture reduction, including kiln drying, to be allowed entry into the United States. Handicrafts less than 6 inches in diameter could be treated with methyl bromide instead. The articles would also have to be stored, handled or protected in a way that will exclude any infestation of plant pests throughout the treatment and export process. A phytosanitary certificate issued by the national plant protection organization of China would need to be included in the shipment and contain an additional declaration stating that the handicrafts were treated and inspected and found free from quarantine pests. Lastly, under the proposed regulations, all individual packages of wooden handicrafts would need to be labeled with a merchandising tag containing the identity of the product manufacturer. This tag would help APHIS track shipments should a recall be required.

These changes, would allow for trade to resume for Chinese wooden handicrafts while continuing to protect the United States against the introduction of plant pests, such as wood boring beetles.

Notice of this proposed rule is scheduled for publication in the April 9 *Federal Register*.

Consideration will be given to comments received on or before June 8. Send two copies of postal mail or commercial delivery comments to Docket No. APHIS-2007-0117, Regulatory Analysis and Development, PPD, APHIS, Station 3A-03.8, 4700 River Road, Unit 118, Riverdale, MD 20737-1238. Please state that your comment refers to Docket No. APHIS-2007-0117. If you wish to submit a comment using the Internet go the Federal eRulemaking portal at <http://www.regulations.gov/fdmspublic/component/main?main=DocketDetail&d=APHIS-2007-0117>.

Comments are posted on the Regulations.gov Web site and may also be reviewed at USDA, Room 1141, South Building, 14th St. and Independence Ave., S.W., Washington, D.C.,

- 2 -

between 8 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding holidays. To facilitate entry into the comment reading room, please call (202) 690-2817.

#

Note to Reporters: USDA news releases, program announcements and media advisories are available on the Internet. Go to the APHIS news release page at <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/newsroom>. Also, anyone with an e-mail address can sign up to receive APHIS press releases automatically. Send an e-mail message to [lyris@mdrdlyriss10.aphis.usda.gov](mailto:lyris@mdrdlyriss10.aphis.usda.gov) and leave the subject blank. In the message, type subscribe press\_releases.